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ABSTRACT

Intermediate grade teachers are provided with 14 presidential election learning activities which introduce students to the different stages of the campaign process, past presidents, and the two-party system. Students participate in a presidential facts game, an election vocabulary game, a word search, and a matching game; create campaign slogans and television commercials; and analyze political cartoons. A resource guide is appended. The document is one of a collection of materials from the Iowa Area Education Agency 7 Teacher Center Project. (LP)

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Road to White House Activities

DEVELOPED BY:

MARALYN CURL, TEACHER
IRVING ELEMENTARY
WATERLOO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
WATERLOO, IOWA

COMPILED BY:

TEACHER CENTER
NELLIE GARVEY SCHOOL
2201 E. MITCHELL AVENUE
WATERLOO, IOWA

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AREA EDUCATION AGENCY 7

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Document title: Road to the White House Activities

Author(s): Maralyn Curl

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Teacher Center Policy Board Chair - Doris Mauer
Teacher Center Director - Diane Gibson, Ed. D.

Ronald Dickinson, Ed. D.- Chief Administrator, AEA 7

This is a group of election activities from many sources. They could be used in conjunction with any Social Science textbook. I have developed mine to supplement the Harcourt, Brace, Jovanorich Principles and Practices in the Teaching of the Social Sciences Concepts and Values text for 5th and 6th grades.

Any intermediate teacher could use these ideas for classes or as learning centers. The campaign hat could be enlarged on the bulletin board. The different activities could be placed in learning centers or learning stations. Most could be made into file folder games. The students could color in each section of an individual campaign hat as they completed the section.

Another activity that might be interesting would be for each student to make a scrapbook. Using newsprint make the sheets. The students could cut clippings from the newspaper or individual papers such as Weekly Readers, or Scholastic News. They could have each candidate and their slogan etc. This would not be completed then until the Inauguration on January 20th. Be sure to include cartoons too.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN ELECTION YEAR

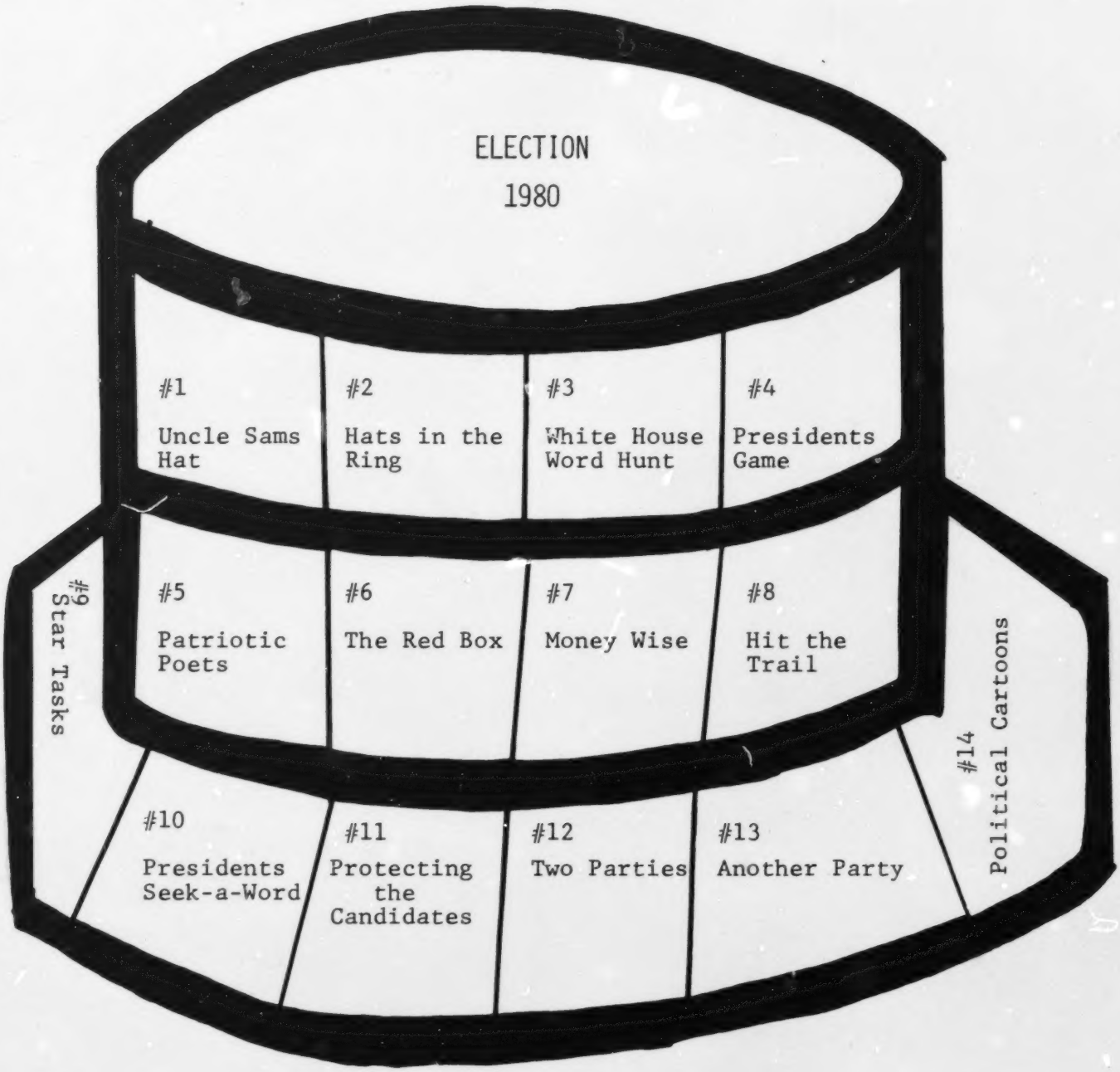
(January-June) The Search for Candidates

(July-August) The Candidates are Nominated

(September-November) The Election Campaign

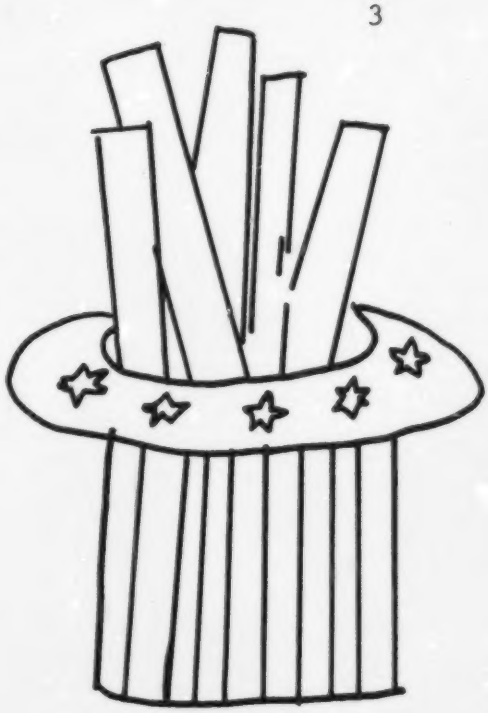
November-Election Day

January-The New President Takes Over


ELECTION
1980
#1
Uncle Sams Hat
#2
Hats in the Ring
#3
White House Word Hunt
#4
Presidents Game
#5
Patriotic Poets
#6
The Red Box
#7
Money Wise
#8
Hit the Trail
#9
Star Tasks
#10
Presidents Seek-a-Word
#11
Protecting the Candidates
#12
Two Parties
#13
Another Party
#14
Political Cartoons

ACTIVITY # 1

UNCLE SAM'S HAT

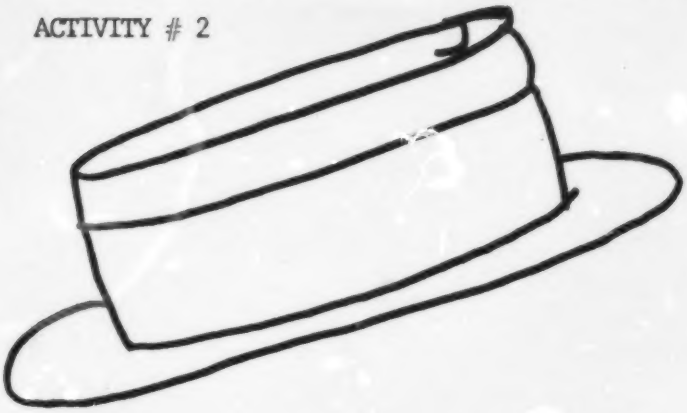


Cover a three pound coffee can with white paper to which you have added red stripes. Slip a circle of blue cardboard on the can to form the brim. Add white stars. On strips of red, white and blue cardboard, write questions that can be answered with a trip to the library.

Some sample questions are included. You will have to adjust these to your class.

1. Which would be the most important state for a candidate to win?
2. What is a presidential candidate's running mate called?
3. Use a dictionary to find out:
   A. What a DARK HORSE is;
   B. What a FAVORITE SON is.
4. Which Northeastern state has the most electoral votes?
5. What area has three electoral votes even though it is not a state?
6. If a state's population increases, the number of electoral votes it has may_____.
7. Only one president has ever held that office without being elected to it. Who is he?
8. Can you vote for a presidential candidate from one party and and for a vice-presidential candidate from another?
9. When are national elections held?
10. What is a landslide victory?
11. What is a candidate's platform?
12. What is an endorsement?

ACTIVITY # 2



HATS IN THE RING

ELECTION VOCABULARY GAME

TOSS HIS HAT INTO THE RING. To announce that one is willing to be his party's candidate for a public office, especially for the presidential nomination. It was an old frontier custom for a man to throw his hat, coat, or shirt into the bowing ring to show that he was volunteering to wrestle or fight an opponent. This phrase was first used in a political sense by ex-President Theodore Roosevelt. Early in 1912 many people were urging Roosevelt to run again for the Presidency. When a reporter asked whether he would be a candidate, Roosevelt answered, "My hat is in the ring."

The words and phrases below are used often during election campaigns. Match the words with their definitions by placing the proper letters in the blank spaces. The words are difficult, but try your best.

--candidate

--caucus

--convention delegates

--dark horse

--donkey

--elephant

--GOP

--grass-roots opinion

--incumbent

--independent voter

--landslide

--majority

--mudslinging

--poll

--presidential nominating convention

--primaries

--third party

a. symbol of the Democratic party

b. campaigning in an unfair way involving name-calling

c. sampling of voter opinion before an election to try to find out which candidate is most likely to win

d. another name for the Republican party (Letters stand for Grand Old Party.)

e. closed meeting of party members to choose convention delegates

f. person running for elective office

g. election victory by a large number of votes

h. person holding a public office

i. voter not belonging to a party

j. symbol of the Republican party

k. elections held to give voters a role in choosing candidates

l. meeting where a political party chooses its presidential candidate

m. party members elected to choose a presidential candidate

n. surprise candidate not expected to win

o. strong U.S. party other than the Democrat or Republican parties

p. more than one-half the total vote

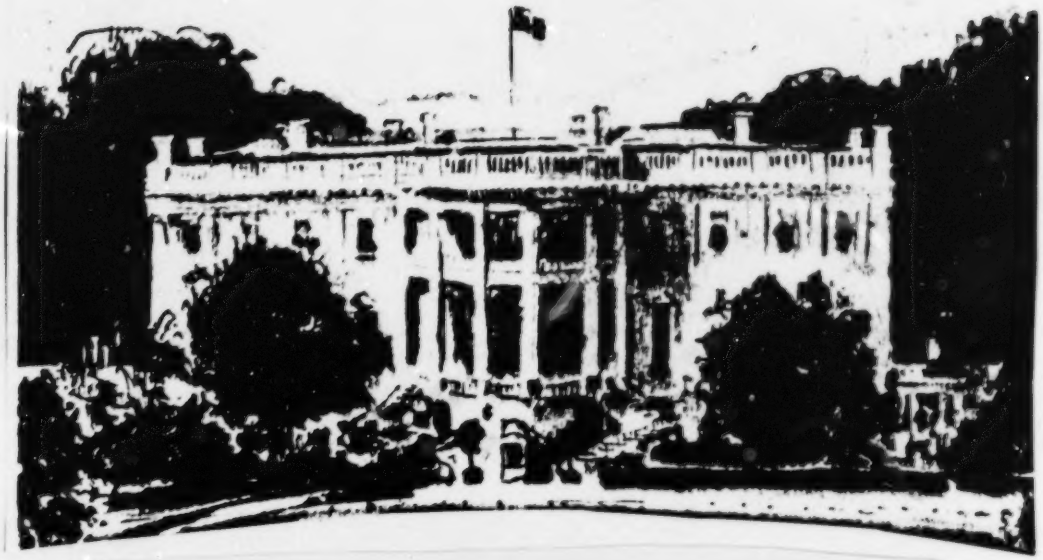
q. political opinion at the local level

ANSWER KEY

ELECTION VOCABULARY GAME

f
e
m
n
a
j
d
q
h
i
g
p
b
c
l
k
o

This game would lend itself to a file folder game which you would laminate. Then put a pocket on the back to hold the key.



Words that remind us of the White House are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: columns, mansion, portico, banquet, wing, white, house, president, Oval Office, parties, visitor, tour, East Room, passageways, Rose Garden, gates, guard, fountains, executive, halls and rooms.

B P R E S I D E N T A G A F P

R D E H A L L S I O Q A O O A

S E S O J B A N Q U E T V U S

V L Z S P A R T I E S S L T A

P S X E W H I T E T T U O A G

M A N S I O N G U A R D F I E

V L T X N V I S I T O R F N W

R O S E G A R D E N O P I S A

P O R T I C O R O O M S C K Y

R E X E C U T I V E M Y E M S

Activity # 4

PRESIDENT'S GAME

Use pictures of presidents on the All American calendar. Cut out pictures and the names with years of terms and the chronological number of the presidents. On the back of the pictures paste the chronological numbers (there is writing on the back) of their terms. This will be the key.

DIRECTIONS

Try and match the pictures with the names, term, etc. If the match is correct, the numbers will match.

Example: Kennedy-35th President; 35 is on the back of his picture. Directions can be typed on an index card; pieces of game and direction card could be put in a manilla folder.

The calendar is put out by Local 838 U.A.W., 515 Rainbow Drive, Waterloo, IA 50701

Activity # 5

PATRIOTIC POETS

Write an original poem.

Find a poem you like about our country, our flag etc.

Copy the poem and add it to the poetry corner.

ACTIVITY # 6

THE RED BOX

Fill the red box with 3" x 4" red cards. Print a presidential question on each card. Provide paper for students to write their findings. Pin answers to the bulletin board. When quite a few reports are ready, announce a specific day to read aloud the RED BOX REPORTS.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Who was the first president to live in the White House?

Name three requirements for a candidate for the presidency.

Who was the first president to speak on the radio? on TV?

Give the names of four secretaries in the President's cabinet.

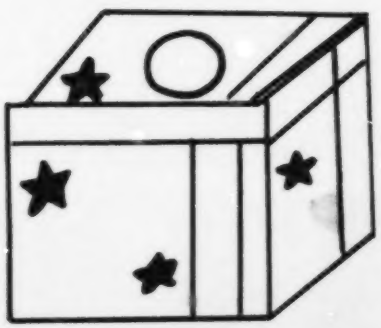
Who was the first president to be sworn into office on a plane?

Who was the largest president?

Which presidents were assassinated?

Which presidents signed the Constitution?

A special prize for the one who can say the names of all the presidents.

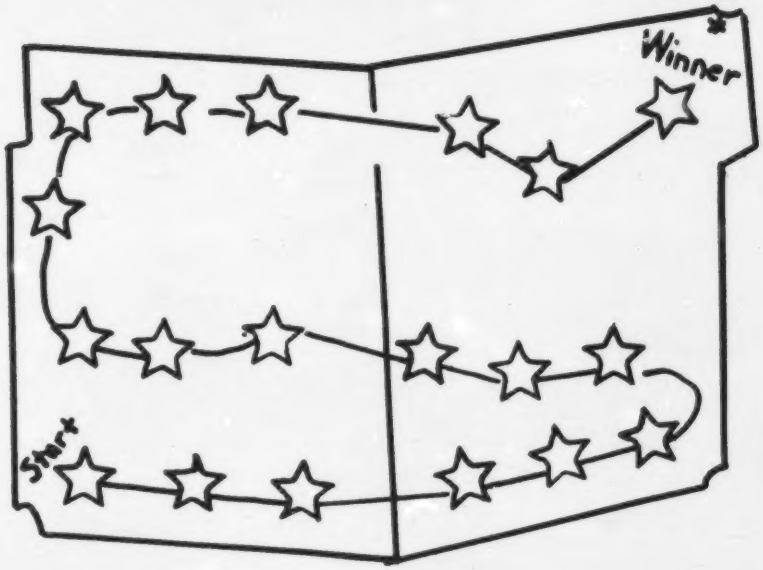


MONEY-WISE!

1. Whose face is on the $1.00 bill?
2. Who is on the $5.00 bill
3. On the $10.00 bill?
4. On the $20.00 bill?
5. On the $50.00 bill?
6. On the $100.00 bill?
7. Who is on the penny?
8. On the nickel?
9. On the dime?
10. On the quarter?

ACTIVITY # 8

HIT THE TRAIL



Line a file folder with striped gift paper. Arrange gummed red and blue stars in a "trail", more blue stars than red. Decorate the game in a patriotic motif. On the cover write the name of the game in letters cut from striped paper. Add a red and blue border around the edges of the folder. Cut more blue than red 2" x 3" cards from construction paper. Play like any trail game. When you land on a blue star, take a blue card; when you land on a red star, take a red card. The blue cards have the names of states, presidents, and cities of your state. The red cards have things to say. When you land on one of the special stars, you must do as it says. A number on the blue card tells how many to move.

SAMPLES FOR RED CARDS:

Where is the Golden Gate Bridge?

What states have oil?

Where is the Grand Canyon?

Name three national parks.

Name two rivers.

Where is the City of Brotherly Love?

Where are the Badlands?

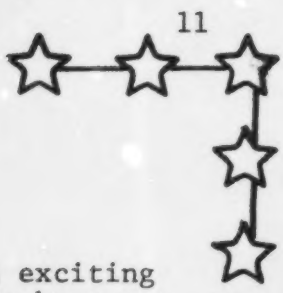
Where is the Alamo?

What state has 1,000 lakes?

What is Niagara Falls?

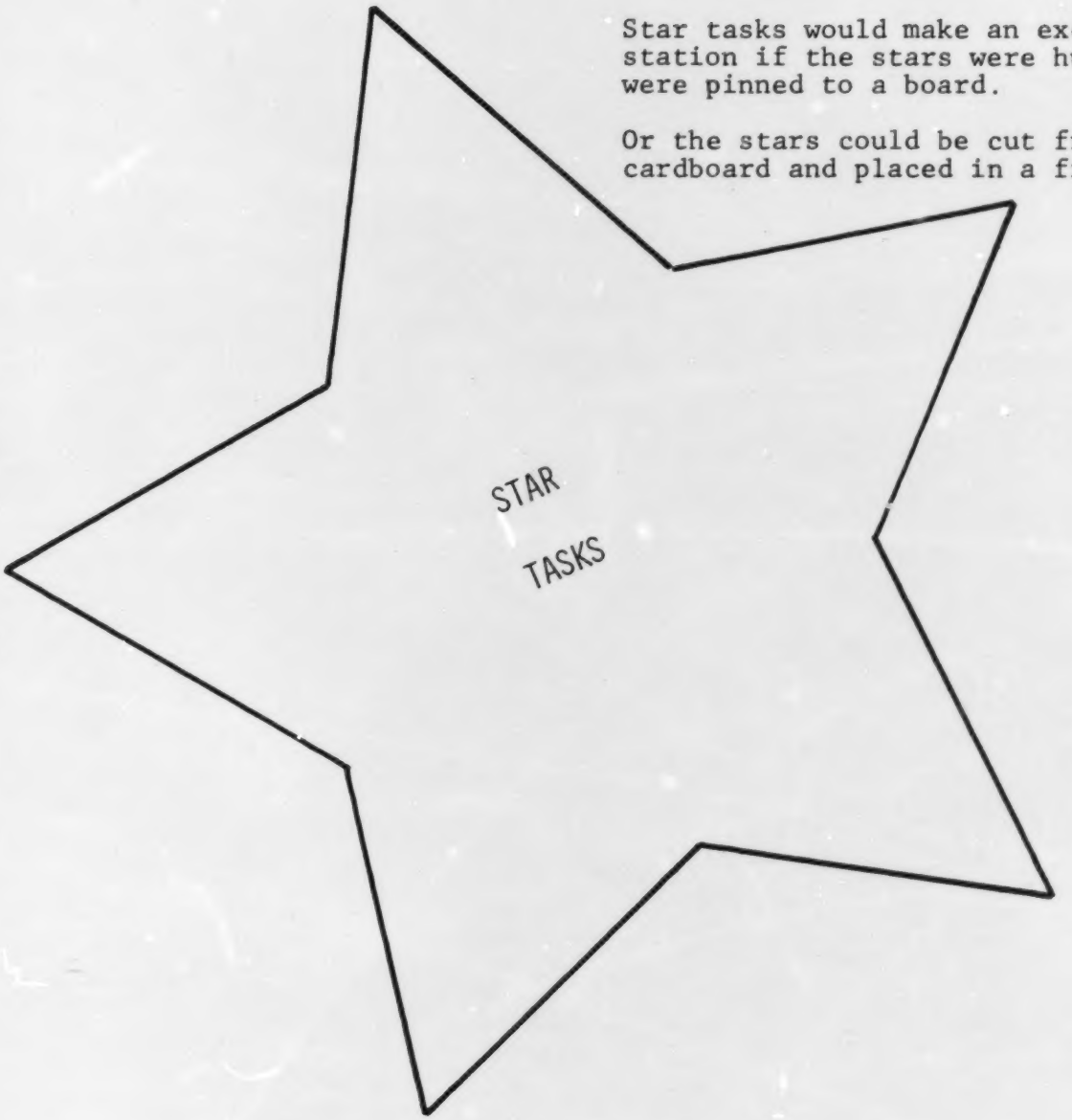
Name the five Great Lakes.

ACTIVITY # 9



Star tasks would make an exciting station if the stars were hung or were pinned to a board.

Or the stars could be cut from cardboard and placed in a file folder.



SUGGESTED TASKS:

Create your campaign slogan

Make a campaign banner

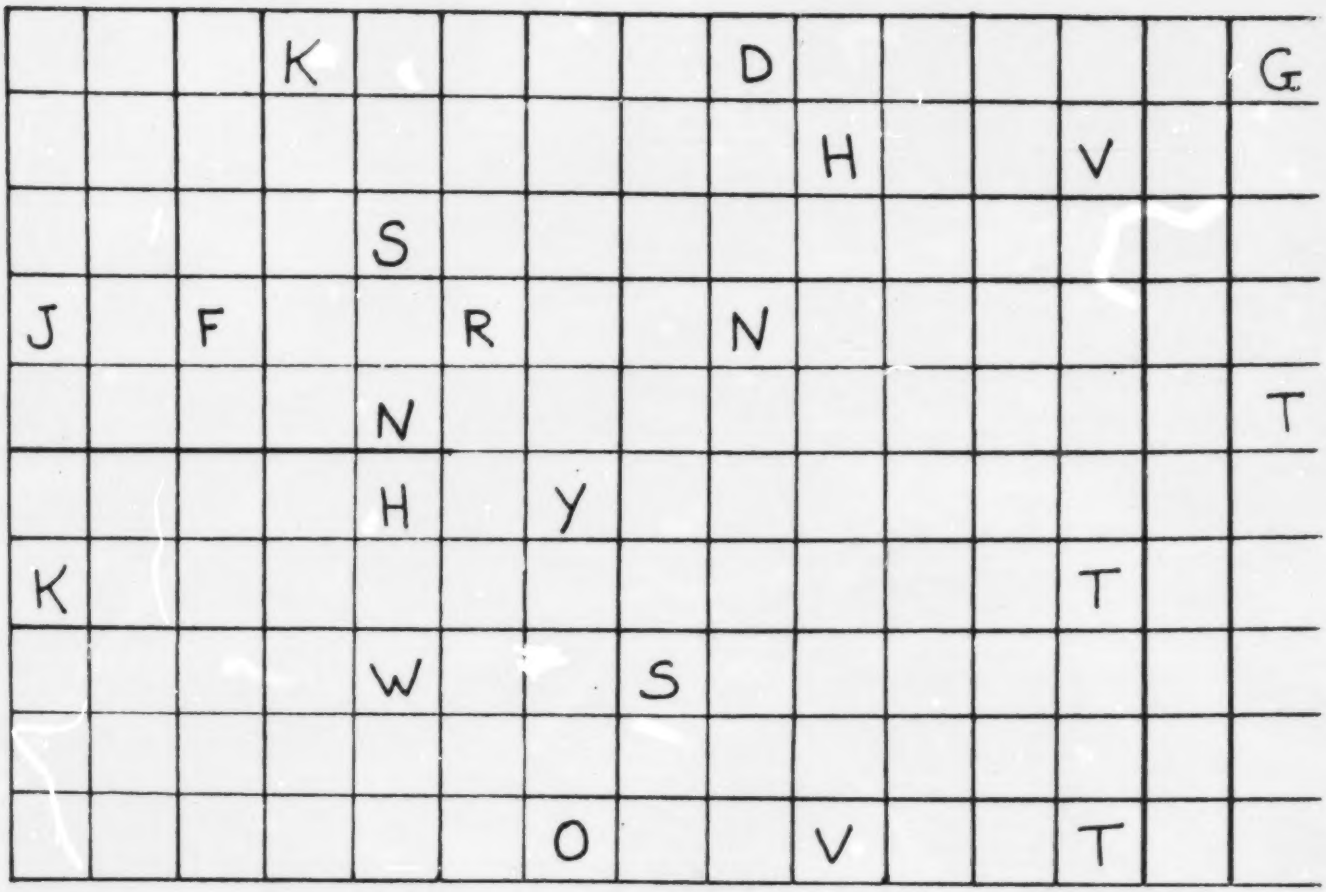
Cut cardboard circles and make your campaign buttons

Create a bumper sticker with a catchy slogan

1. One-minute advertisements on radio or T.V.
2. Make up a catchy song or slogan to go along with your campaign

ACTIVITY # 10

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES



Theodore Roosevelt	Harry S. Truman	Grover Cleveland	Ulysses S. Grant
Rutherford B. Hayes	Zachary Taylor	Franklin Pierce	John Adams
John Quincy Adams	Benjamin Harrison	Andrew Jackson	James Buchanan
William Howard Taft	Warren G. Harding	Andrew Johnson	Woodrow Wilson
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Millard Fillmore	William McKinley	John F. Kennedy
Calvin Coolidge	Dwight Eisenhower	James Garfield	James K. Polk
George Washington	Abraham Lincoln	Herbert Hoover	James Monroe
Lyndon B. Johnson	Martin Van Buren	William H. Harrison	John Tyler
James Madison	Thomas Jefferson	Chester A. Arthur	Richard Nixon

Object of the game: Find the last names of the presidents that fit in the above puzzle. Every letter already on the puzzle must be used. You may go across or up and down.

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

Key

P	O	L	K		H	A	R	D	I	N	G			G
									H	O	O	V	E	R
		E	I	S	E	N	H	O	W	E	R			A
J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N						N
	J	O	H	N	S	O	N							T
				H	A	Y	E	S						
K	E	N	N	E	D	Y						T		
				W	I	L	S	O	N			A		
												F		
				R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T		

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Object of the game: Find the last names of the presidents that fit in the above puzzle. Every letter already on the puzzle must be used. You may go across or up and down.

ACTIVITY # 11

PROTECTING THE CANDIDATES
(The story of the Secret Service)

Use the story that follows and prepare a cassette recording. Then make a copy of the question sheet.

THE NEED FOR SECURITY

Is there danger in crowds for our top political figures? U.S. history offers a "yes" answer to this question.

-Four U.S. Presidents have been killed by assassins, beginning with Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

-Several Presidents have narrowly missed assassination.

-One prominent candidate (Robert Kennedy) was killed by an assassin in 1968 and another (George Wallace) was crippled in 1972.

"There's real danger out there today--you can't ignore it," says a Secret Service official. The Secret Service is the U.S. Government agency in charge of protecting Presidents and presidentials hopefuls.

THE SECRET SERVICE HAS BUSY TIME

The U.S. Secret Service is a bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department. The Service was created in 1865 by Congress to fight counterfeiting of U.S. currency. The Service did not begin to protect the President until 1901, following the assassination of President McKinley.

Secret Service agents are assigned to protect past and present U.S. Presidents and their immediate families, the Vice President and his immediate family, and major presidential and vice-presidential cnadidates and their spouses.

To be eligible for protection, candidates must either raise $1,000,000.00 for win 10 percent of their party's vote.

Guards must meet strict qualifications if they wish to qualify for protection duty. They undergo weeks of intensive training which includes practice with a wide range of firearms and proficiency in hand-to-hand combat.

Agents work 3-week stretches, often 12 hours a day. Psychiatrists who have talked with these men and women report that the biggest strain on the agents is the uncertainity of travel schedules. Secret Service officials try to limit their people to three-year detail on protective duty. Agents not on protective duty work on counterfeit cases.

The Secret Service Bureau maintains a computerized Protective Intelligence File which lists some 400 people the Bureau considers potential assassins. Many on the list are mentally disturbed and have a history of violence. The Service also keeps the proverbial eye open for foreign or domestic plotters seeking to assault a President or presidential candidate for political reasons.

The agency has rules for where and when candidates can go, how they can get there and whom they can see. Trips planned by Presidents or candidates have been cancelled by the Secret Service when agents were not able to find someone on the city's danger list.

Although the Service works to provide tight, round-the-clock security, the agents are realistic about their situation: a patient, determined assassin can get through any protective network.

THE SECRET SERVICE'S ROLE

Secret Service agents are essentially bodyguards. Their main job is to protect Presidents or presidential candidates from close-in attack by assassins.

Agents must know how to direct car caravans through crowded streets. They must also know how to keep tabs on people known to be dangerous-and on the loose.

For this Secret Service work, the average pay is $30,000.00 per year. A few women serve as agents. Almost all agents are college graduates.

How many agents guard each candidate? The Secret Service does not give out such information. It might help an assassin plan an attack.

It's no secret, however, that the Secret Service is needed more than ever these days. Today agents number nearly 1,600 against fewer than 400 in 1963-just before President Kennedy was killed.

The yearly budget for Secret Service activities has climbed from $5.5 million in 1963 to an estimated $160 million in this busy election year.

After students have read the story or listened to it on a tape they should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the name of the organization that protects top U.S. leaders and presidential candidates? (The Secret Service)

2. What danger do crowds present for the President and and the candidates? (The crowds might include someone who wants to harm the PRESIDENT OR THE CANDIDATES.)

3. What opportunities do the crowds present for the President and the candidate? (The opportunity to meet and talk with the people)

4. How many Presidents have been killed by assassins? (Four)

5. What is the main job of the Secret Service agents? (They are bodyguards hired to protect Presidents and presidential candidates from physical attack)

6. What are some other things agents must know? (How to direct car caravans through crowded streets, how to spot snipers, and how to check up on people known to be dangerous)

7. What is the average pay for a Secret Service agent? (About $30,000.00 per year)

8. Why won't the Secret Service tell how many agents guard a candidate? (It might help an assassin plan an attack)

9. How many Secret Service agents are there? (Nearly 1,600)

PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATIONS

On the timeline below, fill in the date when each of the four U.S. Presidents was assassinated. Then draw a line from each name to the correct place on the timeline.

Abraham Lincoln
time in office
March 1861-April 1865

James Garfield
time in office
March 1881-September 1881

William McKinley
time in office
March 1897-September 1901

John F. Kennedy
time in office
January 1961-November 1963

Mark the three statements **True** *or* **False.**

____ 1. Two Presidents were assassinated in the 19th century and two in the 20th century.

____ 2. Two U.S. Presidents were assassinated in September.

____ 3. Each of the four U.S. Presidents assassinated served more than one year.

Complete the following sentences.

4. The President most recently assassinated was _____.

5. Of the four assassinated Presidents, _____ served the longest term in office.

6. Of the four assassinated Presidents, _____ served the shortest term in office.

1. Our country has two major political parties today. What are their names?

2. Which party has an elephant for its symbol?

3. Which party has a donkey for its symbol?

4. What do the letters G.O.P. stand for?

5. Are there other parties? Are they as widely known?

6. What do the political parties stand for?

7. Who are the President and Vice President candidates from each party.

8. Are there other people also campaigning? Who are they?

Another Party

Sometimes its hard to tell what our political parties stand for.

Make up your own party

List the things your party will stand for.

What are the most important problems in our country today?

How can you help?

You will need to think about this!

Pick a name and a symbol for your party too!

POLITICAL CARTOONS

Political Cartoon Reading

Study the cartoon at the right. Then circle the letter of the best answer to each of the questions below.

1. Who is the person in the cartoon? (a) a circus clown; (b) Uncle Sam, a symbol of the U.S.; (c) a presidential candidate from the old days.
2. Who does the person in the top hat represent, or symbolize, in this cartoon? (a) the U.S. Congress; (b) the U.S. Navy; (c) the American voting public.
3. Aside from the person, what is the other important symbol in the cartoon? (a) the sky; (b) the horizon; (c) the water.
4. What feeling is the person expressing in the cartoon? (a) joy; (b) discomfort; (c) wild anger.
5. Is the cartoonist being (a) funny; (b) serious; (c) a little of both.

Note: Write your own caption for this cartoon.

This political cartoon would also make a file folder game. You could put some other cartoons on the cover. Encourage the children to save some from the paper and add them to their scrapbook. Or start a cartoon corner on the bulletin board. Help the children to see the humor in these cartoons.

AREA VII RESOURCE BOOKS

First Book of Elections by Edmund Lindop

History of Presidential Elections by E. Roseboom

People's President by N. Pierce

Peoples Choice Election Day by M. Phelan and A. Schwartz

We Elect a President by D. Weingast

Making of the President, 1964, by T. White

Presidency by G. Johnson

America and Its Presidents by E. Miers

Presidents Are People Too by F. Cormier

OTHER BOOKS

Arrow Book of Presidents by Sturges F. Cary

How We Choose A President by Lee Learner Gray

On the Campaign Trail by Linda Beech

FILMS

2802 Campaign-American Style I

2802 Campaign-American Style II

3570 True Story of An Election

2251 U.S. Elections-How We Vote

1423 Why We Have Elections